1761 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1961
Canaan, New Hampshire
August 18, 19, 20, 1961

PROGRAM

The following schedule of events covers not only the program for the three-day celebration but also prior events during the Bicentennial Year:

SATURDAY, FEB. 11
Tea and public supper in honor of Bicentennial Queen candidates.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17
Bicentennial Ball and crowning of the Queen with crown donated by Mr. Kapples.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
Dinner in Grange Hall, sponsored by the Indian River Grange.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
Whist Party in the Community Center, sponsored by the American Legion and Auxiliary.

SATURDAY, MAY 6
Square Dance Festival in the Community Center, sponsored by the organizations of West Canaan.

TUESDAY, MAY 30
Memorial Day Service in honor of the town’s first settlers at Village Methodist Church. Memorial dinner served by Methodist Youth Fellowship. Memorial Service at Cobble Hill Cemetery.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3
Chicken Barbecue at Mt. Cardigan Fish and Game Club Field, sponsored by the Club.

SUNDAY, JULY 9
Charter Day Family Picnic and Field Day at Cardigan Mountain School.

SUNDAY, JULY 16
“An Evening of History” at Community Center.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
8:00 P.M. — Minstrel Show at Community Center

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
10:00 A.M. — Address by Governor Wesley Powell
10:30 A.M. — Grand Parade
  12 Noon — Dinner in Hot Lunch Room
  1:00 P.M. — Firemen’s Muster
  2:00 P.M. — Sportsmen’s Show at Williams Field
  2:30 P.M. — Horseshoe Pitching Contest, Williams Field
  4:00 P.M. — Prize Beard and Costume Judging, Grange Hall
  9:00 P.M. — Street Dancing

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
10:00 A.M. — Service in memory of former pastors in the Old North Church, Canaan Street
  12 Noon — Chicken Barbecue at Canaan Fair Grounds
  1:00 P.M. — Dedication of Memorial Plaque at Cobble Hill Cemetery
  2:00 P.M. — Baseball Game, Williams Field
  9:00 P.M. — Fireworks at Canaan Fair Grounds

The Grange Hall will be open as a public lounge and meeting place Saturday and Sunday. An information Booth will be open at the Community Center.
1961 Bicentennial Committees
Canaan, New Hampshire

Chairman — John P. Roberts
Bicentennial Queen — Priscilla Decato
Secretary — Kathryn Carlson
Treasurer — Edward A. Barney

Minstrel Show — Joseph C. Chandler

Parade — Charles L. Clifford, Bernis Goss

Costumes and Prize Beards—Pauline Barney
Shirley S. Shenk

Bonfire — Ronald Hammond

Dance — Hollis Emery

Album of Pictures — Daniel W. Fleetham,
Elmer Dulmage

Souvenirs — Kathryn Butler

Horse Shoe Pitching — Ralph Dow

Publicity — Mary Dulmage

Baseball Game — Archie L. Eastman

Home Illumination — Gordon Lary, Caroline Grey

Decoration of Graves of Early Settlers—
Ruth Hicks, Ethelyn Woodard

Firemen's Muster — James Q. Ricard

History of Canaan — Ned B. Smith

Memorial Service for Former Ministers—
Rev. Ernest Steffensen

Welcome for Former Residents — Bessie H.
Barney

Barbecue — Charles Lester, John P. Roberts

Historical Sites — William Cady

Production and Construction — Lynn S. Web-
ster, Paul Gagnon

Historical Exhibits Custodian — John Taplin

Wildlife Exhibit — Caroline Grey
The Town House on Canaan Street, still used for town meetings, was completed in 1796. Its beautiful interior appointments were taken out in remodeling program in 1841.
Fourth of July in Canaan in 1894. The parade is lining up on Depot St. In the background may be seen a standing freight and a corner of the old Boston & Maine station. In the foreground, the Gilman store is at the left and the Marshall Shackford general store at the right. (Mr. Shackford's daughter, Addie Follansbee, later ran the store.)

At the head of the parade, on horseback, is Major Swett. Horace Robie (with beard) is among a group at the left. Standing in front of the band (Locke's Silver Trumpet Band) is Joe Stockbridge. The second man on horseback is Everett Mars. At the right, carrying a dinner pail, is Sam Abbott. Others identified in the picture are John Harrigan, Will Gardner, Frank Hough, Charles Hoit, Wallace Fogg and Allie Kimball.
A Historian’s Notebook
By Ned B. Smith

Remembering Canaan’s One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary, and how at that time the Hon. James Burns Wallace gave the historical address, today I feel very humble to attempt a similar talk.

Two centuries have passed since the first settler visited this town. To cover a span of two hundred years in a short article, I shall be able to speak only of the most important events, realizing that there is much of interest that is left untold.

Our first settlers saw before them only unbroken forests and innumerable hardships. Their only welcome was the howls of wild beasts. To fell the forests and subdue the land in its primitive state required a hardy energy, severe and constant toil. Nature was not lavish in her gifts of fertility to these granite hills, but the energy of our pioneers evoked from them enough to meet the demands of life.

The present contains the past. Today is but the product of the many years that are gone. Now we are surrounded by the fruits of two hundred years of labor and accomplishments, but let not the trials of the early days be forgotten. May the courage, firmness and perseverance of our forefathers continue to bless the Canaan of today.

On July 9, 1761 the Royal Governor of New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth, granted charters for townships on both sides of the Connecticut River. Twenty-two of the towns were on the east side. Canaan is one of these. As granted this town was six miles square and contained 23,000 acres, bounded on the north by Dorchester, on the east by Orange, on the south by Enfield and on the west by Hanover. Before the white man came this whole area was undisturbed except for the foraging of wild beasts and occasional Indian hunters. The surface of the land is very uneven, arranged in hills and valleys, watered by streams of clear water, with lakes and ponds. Nothing is known of Indian life in Canaan. However, by the lake at the Cobb House and also at the outlet of Goose Pond evidence has been found of their camps, probably made by hunting parties of the Abnakis.

According to the charter, the town was divided into sixty-eight shares, given to sixty-two men and six societies, as grantees. All of these grantees, or proprietors, except twelve, were from the vicinity of Norwich, Connecticut. The twelve exceptions were Governor Wentworth and his friends. Among them all it does not appear by the records that more than a dozen of them ever visited their grants. Those who did were: Amos Walworth, Ebenezer Eames, George and Daniel Harris, Samuel Meacham, Thomas Gates, Thomas Miner, James Jones, Samuel Dodge, Ephraim Wells, Jr., Josiah Gates, and possibly Thomas Gustin, who was appointed the moderator of the first town meeting in the charter.

Before the settlement of the town, trappers from Haverhill, Massachusetts, came to what is now Canaan Street Lake with their traps. The name of one of them was Hart, and his name was given to this sheet of water, “Hart Pond.”

In 1763 a path, through which a horse could be led was cut through the forest on the east bank of the Connecticut River from Old Fort No. 4 in Charlestown to what is now the village of West Lebanon, a distance of over thirty miles.
The story of the first settler in Canaan is partly legendary, but some authentic facts have been obtained concerning him from his descendants living in Canada. John Scofield with his family left Connecticut in the Spring of 1766 in search of a home. He had worked his way up the Connecticut River from the vicinity of Norwich to Old Fort No. 4, with the intention of going on to Canada. In the early Winter of 1766 he came up that path on the Connecticut River from the east bank of the river to what is now the town of Canaan and crossed it on the ice as the sun was setting in the West. He had brought axe, shovel, rifle and the precious tinder-box. Locating a sheltered spot, he built a great fire, cleared away the snow, and with brush and bark made a rude shelter, open to the fire, for his family. They ate a frugal supper and slept. Canaan was on its way.

John Scofield's brush house was about twenty-five rods northeast from the home of Berton Smith on South Road. Near it he later built his cabin and an outdoor stone oven. At this time he was fifty-one years old. He was not a grantee of the town, but by purchase he came to own much of the interval that is now West Canaan. He and his wife lived out their years near the spot where they first camped. He was deeded land on South Road (now owned by Berton Smith), and Samuel Jones who had married Scofield's daughter, Mariam, cleared that land and there he made his home. It is on this place that John Scofield selected his burial spot, and there he, his wife, and seven others are buried.

He was an active man of sound judgment, of great assistance to the new town, and much honored in later years by his fellow citizens. He died July 5th, 1784; his widow lived until 1794. After her death his sons, Eleazer, who built the Moore place on South Road, and John, Jr., who built the place across from the John Ginn farm, with their families, and families related by marriage, emigrated to St. Armand, Canada. This place is about a mile across the Canadian border and near Lake Champlain. So, after thirty-five years, all the Scofields went to Canada as John Scofield had originally planned and Canaan saw none of them again.

Thomas Miner was the second man who came to colonize the town. He was twenty-three years old when he came here in the Spring of 1767 with his wife and son. He was a grantee of Canaan, and from Norwich, Connecticut. Early in 1766 he had tried to have other grantees come with him to view their lands. None were ready then, nor in 1767, so Thomas Miner with his family and goods came alone. Had he followed his inclinations he would have been here before Mr. Scofield. Their journey was a quiet one and they first camped on South Road, where with flint and steel he made the fire and built a brush shelter for their first night in Canaan. The next morning he heard the sounds of chopping. Thomas discharged his rifle; this was answered by the report of another. Soon he and the first settler met and became life-long friends.

Thomas Miner built the house on South Road now owned by Henry L. Griffin. He sold this to Caleb Gilman and bought the tavern on South Road of George and Joshua Harris; and there he died. After his death, his son Amos took the building down and with the lumber built the place now owned by Martin Pierce.

Late in the Summer of 1767 a party of grantees arrived, consisting of George and Daniel Harris, Amos Walworth, Samuel Benedict, Samuel Jones, Lewis Joslyn, Asa Williams, Joseph Craw, Daniel and David Crossman. George Harris, a man of energy and superior intelligence, was recognized as the leader and he at once had parties for exploring. Within a few days he had visited all parts of the town. Each man selected spots for their new homes — George Harris, Samuel Jones, Daniel Crossman and Amos Walworth on South Road, Asa Williams and Samuel Benedict south of the center of the town. Before Winter they had their log cabins built. They built roads of a sort, not much more than trails between the houses.

In 1769 the Charter of Canaan was declared forfeited by reason of non-compliance with any of its provisions; but by request of the grantees it was reissued in the terms of the old one.

The County or Post Road covering South
Hart Pond (Canaan Street Lake) and Canaan Street in the 1880s when the street was nearly bare of trees at the south end. In the right foreground is the Pinnacle house, now owned by Kathryn Butler and Mary Moore. In the left foreground is the John P. Roberts house. Further down the street may be seen the Town House.

Road was laid out in 1774. In 1776, ten years after Mr. Scofield had arrived, the total male population above twenty-one years of age was twenty-four, and all signed the Association Test. The first death in town was a child of Joseph Craw and it was buried in what is now the Street Cemetery.

Deacon Caleb Welch was the eighth family to settle here, on South Road across from John Jones and Thomas Miner. Others were Asa Kilburn and Jedediah Hibbard from Lebanon, and Nathaniel Bartlett. In 1769 Ebenezer Eames, Thomas Baldwin, Joshua and Ezekiel Wells and Samuel Chapman came. Now with the Post Road open from settlements in southern New Hampshire and those in Massachusetts, together with roads in town, the new settlers began to arrive, their ox-carts piled high with supplies and children. Richard and Caleb Clark came in 1773; Robert Barber in 1778; William Ayer and Nathan Pollansbee in 1779; Jonathan Carleton and David Dustin, Nathaniel Whitcher with the Blaisdell brother, sons of his wife by a previous marriage, in 1780; John and Clark Currier in 1781; the six Richardson brothers, William, John, Enoch, Joshua, Eliphalet and Moses, all veterans of the Revolution, in 1782; William Bradbury in 1785.

Ebenezer Eames built the first corn mill in 1771. It was built on the stream that is the outlet of Hart Pond at the "Corner," with an overshot water-wheel for power. The people no longer had to go to Lebanon and carry their corn and meal on their backs.

Thomas Miner built the first saw-mill on Moose Brook in 1774. Jonathan Carleton from Amesbury built mills at Factory Village. Robert Barber from Newmarket built mills, later known as Welch Mills. John Pearley from Gilmanton built a mill at Goose Pond. "Cobble Hill" Cemetery was laid out in 1776.

Canaan was one of the towns this side of the Connecticut River that decided to unite with Vermont in 1778 when Vermont petitioned Congress to be admitted as a state. New Hampshire would not recognize the right of secession. Congress admitted Vermont to the Union provided that it gave up all claim to the grants east of the West bank of the Connecticut River. Canaan, and the other towns, remained in New Hampshire.

During the 1770's and 1780's many families came here to make their homes. Some of the names were Clark, Lary, Bartlett, Noyes, Stevens, Currier, Jones, to speak of a few of the early ones. Many roads were laid out during this time, all leading to Eames' corn-mill at the "Corner."

Broad Street was laid out on the west of Hart Pond in 1788, ninety-nine feet wide, and running northerly nearly a mile through frog swamps and bushes. The only settler on this street at the time was William Douglass, who a few years before had built a log cabin a little south-east of the present home of Col. Philip M. Whitney. There, with seeds that
This photograph of George E. Cobb's home and place of business on Canaan Street was taken on August 13, 1886, many years before the house was raised to become the larger Cobb House. Mr. Cobb, who operated the General Store, was also the Postmaster. In the picture, from the left, are Mr. Cobb, Mrs. Emery, Susie Emery, Fanny Cobb (Fleetham), Lucia Cobb, the Emery children and a nurse maid.

he had brought from Connecticut, he planted the first apple orchard in Canaan. This cabin was later used as a school-house in District No. 1. In the Spring of 1838 double rows of rock maples were set out on both sides of Broad Street for its entire length. Recently this street has been called the most beautiful street in New Hampshire. Those first town fathers did well when they surveyed that street in 1788.

With saw-mills in town the settlers began to build large frame houses, which were filled with children. A family of twelve to fifteen children was common; and some had over twenty. Many of those old houses are still standing. Many others are gone. Some are in the Core, on Sawyer Hill and West Farms, South Road, Prospect Hill, and the Ricard Homestead. On the Street, The Pinnacle House by Robert Barber, in 1786; home of John P. Roberts, by Deacon Josiah Clark, in 1795; O. H. Perry Baldwin's, by William Parkhurst, in 1790. Hubbard Harris, Jr., built the house now occupied by Preston T. Miller; he built what is now The College of Advanced Science upon the site of the old Gilman Tavern, which Mr. Gilman sold to Moses Dole in 1802. It was in the Dole Tavern that the first Masonic meeting was held on February 2, 1814. Mr. Harris also built his own home across the street that is still occupied by his descendants, the Goodhue family. I know of but one log cabin still standing, but there may be others. This one is near the attractive home of Charles E. Decato in the northern part of the town.

As the town was growing rapidly during these years, the people wished a meeting house to be built as a place of worship. There were arguments and discussions where it should be located, but it was decided in 1788 to build it on the Barber Farm, now occupied by Logan Morse. This site was most bitterly opposed by some influential men and the matter postponed. On August 27, 1792, it was voted to build a meeting house "provided the town can agree upon a spot to set it, and the method how to build it." At last the town stepped aside and left the building of the house wholly to the proprietors. They placed the house at the north end of the common on Broad Street, and it was completed.
in 1796. The house had three entrances, east, west and the main one on the south. From the south entrance a broad aisle extended directly to the high pulpit on the north. A narrow aisle, extending east and west from the end doors, intersected the main aisle passing around the building. There was also an aisle passing around between the wall pews beneath the gallery and those on the center floor. The box pews, in sets of four, panelled, with hinged doors, were in the center; similar pews on the sides were raised one step higher. Galleries were on the east, south and west sides, and the “singing seats” were in the south gallery. The pulpit on the north was elevated upon a platform, enclosed with panel-work, and reached by a flight of ten steps on its west side. Above the pulpit was suspended the old time sounding board. In front of the pulpit, facing the congregation, were the seats for the deacons. From the pulpit the minister looked directly across to the choir. The interior was “built to be the same as the meeting house in Salisbury, New Hampshire.”

The Baptist Society had held their meetings in Caleb Welch’s barn on South Road, opposite to Cobble Hill Cemetery. Because of its great number of members, this sect monopolized the meeting house, and as the years went by they spoke of it as the “Baptist Church.” It never belonged to the Baptist Society. It was built by the proprietors for all the people and all faiths. In 1841 the Baptists got permission to remodel the interior. So they took out the box pews, removed the panel-work, did away with the gallery, and took down the old pulpit and sounding board. They replaced all this with the rough pews that are on the south and east today. They also built the ceiling above.

This is the Town House on Broad Street. Could it have remained as it was built, today it would be the show-place of Canaan. The grantees appear to have made explorations and to have performed various labors, leaving honorable names upon the records. There were also other men than those men-

Ten years later, 1896, the Cobb House had acquired a front porch and was entertaining its first summer guests. This business has been conducted without interruption to the present day and by the same family. The Inn is now being operated by a fourth generation son, Judge Daniel W. Fleetham.
In this 1911 picture of the Reporter Office are, from the left: Bert Jones, Elsie White, Dell J. Goss and the editor and publisher of the Cannan Reporter, C. O. Barney. The building was lost in the great fire of 1923.

tioned in the charter to whom Canaan is indebted for opening up highways in the wilderness which enveloped all the hills and valleys. Few authentic papers exist relative to the early settlement of the town. No diaries detailing the events of daily social life have been discovered. Very few letters exist relating to the prospects or fate of those who came here, many of whom departed without leaving their address. The information to be obtained from public records is little. Not until 1793, thirty-two years from the date of the charter, is there a record of taxpayers. The list for that year gives one hundred and twenty-four names.

Life in the frontier days of New Hampshire was quite different from our life today. There were few comforts of any kind. The log cabin was the common type for the first home. Most furniture and household utensils were home made. Every member of the family had work to do. After providing shelter for his family the pioneer had to clear the land, plow and plant. All honor to the stout-heart-
ed women who came to the new land with their families. The mother not only had the household work to do, but she helped to care for the sheep, chickens and other animals. She had to do the washing, spinning, winding, knitting and weaving of the wool. She made clothing, coverlets and blankets. Sugar making, candle-dipping, soap-making, cooking and caring for the sick were some of her other duties. Should the men be called away, she then did the planting and harvesting.

All boys and girls learned to do their share of work as a matter of course. Corn meal was used in some form as the main food. Everybody had to go to Divine Worship all day Sundays, regardless of the weather, and in Winter with no heat in the meeting house. The social life also included work: working bees, raisings, wrestling matches, corn huskings; and for the women quilting and carding bees. After the larger frame houses were built these events ended with a “junket” in the big kitchen.

There are two kinds of records made by
The center of Canaan Village looked like this in the first quarter of the 20th century with the Baptist Church at left and the Barney Block at right. The view looks toward Canaan Street.

the settlers of this town. The proprietors' records were made by the men who owned the charter rights. Not all of the settlers owned proprietors' rights. The town records were made by the inhabitants of the town. The duty of the proprietors consisted mostly in dividing up the lands and lotting it to the rights named in the charter. Each right had about 325 acres. Unlike the neighboring towns of Dorchester and Hanover the lands in Canaan were not systematically surveyed with the lots numbered. Lots were given here and there, at various times and of different sizes, a condition that plagues land owners of today to establish correct bounds. The lots between the River Road and the road back of Hart Pond are of all shapes and sizes.

The first meeting of the proprietors was July 19, 1768, and for two years all the town business was done by them, until the first town meeting, July 3, 1770. The same men held offices in both meetings. There were more offices than men to fill them. The last meeting of the proprietors was held December 2, 1845. The rights having received their full share were cancelled. Joseph Dustin and Elijah Blaisdell were appointed to dispose of all remaining undivided land.

During the 1780's an epidemic of smallpox swept this section. In 1785 a two-story house was built on Cardigan Mountain near where
Robert Allen (right) and friends in front of the town's first drug store, called the "Blue Store."

A torchlight parade in front of the Overhall Shop (now the First National Store) on Nov. 4, 1912, celebrating the election of Wilson and Marshall.
The first Flint automobile was made in Canaan in 1897 by Edwin Flint. The machine, powered by a steam boiler, would run only a short distance. Canaan had no connection with the later and successful Flint which is shown here with the old original. Charles Hull and Carolyn Harrigan are seated in the cars.

The picnic area now is. It was called “The Pest House,” and was a refuge where victims of small pox were placed in care of someone immune. At one time thirty students of Dartmouth College were sent there, also some of the professors. Any patient who died was quietly buried near by, with no marker at the grave. In 1793 the epidemic was over, and the house closed, and in time to disappear.

The year of 1816 was the “Year Without a Summer.” Snow fell and ice formed every month of the year. All crops and fruits were frozen. It was a time of privation and distress for our people, who had to rely on fish and game to survive.

The 4th Grafton Turnpike, running from Andover to Orford Bridge, was incorporated June 21, 1804. In Canaan it ran from the Orange line north, over High Street, over the hills and through Broad Street, and on to Lyme. It was laid out as the road is now traveled. The only change it made was that the road which followed the lake shore from the Wells Place to John P. Roberts’ was discontinued, and the present road over Pound Hill accepted in its place. The turnpike caused much discussion and contention for many years. Three men from Canaan were named as incorporators: Daniel Blaisdell, Ezekiel Wells and Moses Dole. They were given power to build a toll road, with gates and bars, and establish rates of toll. John Currier and Thaddeus Lathrop contracted to build 130 rods for $200.00. The road to be thirty feet wide; causeways twenty-four feet wide. There were to be two toll gates in this town. The first gate was to be at Worth’s Tavern, where now stands Stage Coach Lodge. The second gate was to be at Gates’ Tavern near the Hanover line. This tavern burned about fifty years ago. The pike was advertised as a bonanza which would fill the pockets of the stockholders with easy money. One hundred and seventeen shares were owned in Canaan at $100 per share. The town voted to sell the school lots and the public rights and invest in the Pike, which was done. In 1808 there were assessments, but no dividends,—and the Pike was not finished. Ten years later there had been seven assessments amounting to $372 per share, and a total of $6,46 per share in dividends. The Pike dragged along until 1828, when the legislature allowed it to go into liquidation. The same year the selectmen laid the road over the same land, but four rods wide. The loss to Canaan people due to this venture was $15,000.00.

The stage road from Plymouth to Lebanon came through Dorchester, down by Jerusalem and Wilson Hill, by the Fair Grounds, over the hill by Howard Reagan’s, through School Street, and on to Enfield. This road, from the watering trough near the Fair Grounds to the site of the old Grist Mill, is laid out by survey 66 feet wide. This is a point abutting land owners should remember.
Nearly all the settlers were strongly religious, either through their own prejudices or their convictions, and there was a strong antagonism toward faiths other than their own.

Methodism came with the first settlers. Samuel Meacham, Ezekiel Wells, and others were of this sect; holding meetings in the homes of the faithful. In 1806 the New England Methodist Conference met in Canaan; a grand camp meeting on the shore of Hart Pond, near the Wells Place. At this time many people joined with them.

In 1826 a Methodist Church was built and dedicated on South Road. This was the first church building to be erected in Canaan by any church organization. It was built at the intersection of the “Switch Road” and South Road; at the corner as one turns left to go to the present home of Levi Rancore. There the members, nearly one hundred strong, met until the Methodist Church was built on Broad Street in 1844. Then the older church was slowly abandoned.

About 1850 Phinias Eastman bought the old church building, took it down and rebuilt it in this village, on the west side of Depot Street and north of the railroad land. It was there at this time Eleazer Barney started his first store. We who are older remember this building as “The Old Cardigan House.” It burned in 1923.

On December 31, 1858 a deed was given to Roswell Elliott, Carey Leeds and Chamberlain Packard, Jr. as trustees, of a lot of land on which to build a Union Church in Canaan Village. This lot was bounded on the north by the “New Contemplated Road.” These trustees sold the pews to raise the money to build the church. By 1861—one hundred years ago—the church was being finished, and the “Contemplated” road was laid out westerly to meet the road to Enfield. Church Street is the result. This church’s first minister was Rev. C. V. Dunning who served from 1863 to 1865. It was organized as an independent church by Bishop Baker in 1863. This church has always had religious worship since, and has been kept in excellent repair by its devoted Ladies Aid.

It became affiliated with the Methodist Sect and since 1883 its pulpit has been supplied by the minister of the Methodist Church at the Street; the Village Church paying well for services received.

West Canaan has a Methodist Church, its faithful members keeping it open for worship.

This church is noted as being the smallest church edifice in New England.

**BAPTIST**

The first church society established was Baptist, about 1780. Before the public meeting-house was built in 1796, they met in barns, usually that of Deacon Caleb Welch on South Road. Thomas Baldwin, who in later life became famous as a religious leader, was the first ordained preacher. He left in 1790. Following him, there was no regular preacher for a number of years. Some of the members, believing themselves amply qualified to fill the pulpit, seized every opportunity to do so. On February 16, 1802, the Baptists constituted themselves into “The Baptist Church of Christ in Canaan,” and because of their numbers took control of the public meeting-house.

The early records of this church, previous to and immediately following the year 1800, have been placed with the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord for safe keeping.

In 1814 Elder Joseph Wheat came as the preacher, and was the minister until his death in 1836. After his death the church declined. In 1839 the membership was ninety-seven in number. In 1844 church meetings were held irregularly and the attendance was small. After 1853 the records of the church are blank until 1867 when the Canaan Village Baptist Church was organized. A new church edifice was built on the spot now occupied by the Community Center. It was dedicated in June 1872. It was the largest church building in town, and the finest, both inside and out. It was built just like the present Baptist Church in the City of Lebanon; in fact the same plan was used.

It struggled along many years, but it had been closed for a long time before it burned in 1923.

**FREEWILL BAPTIST**

In January 1828 a Freewill Baptist Society was formed in Canaan and Orange. It was a lively church, meeting in homes and school houses. It had no regular place of worship in town, but had over one hundred faithful members.

One of its last preachers was Elder Solomon Cole of Lebanon. He was a sincere, kindly, honest man, and the pay that he received from preaching was given to the needy.
The village square in mid-winter, circa 1910.

Any place for worship was always filled when he was to speak. After 1902 the Society disbanded.

**CONGREGATIONAL**

There were a few Congregationalists among the early settlers. In 1803 thirteen people formed the Congregational Church in Canaan. For several years preaching was by missionaries and neighbor ministers. In 1815 there were thirty members. On May 10, 1828 John Pales gave a deed for eighty-one square rods of land, on the brow of the hill at the north end of Broad Street. The house was built in 1828, and dedicated January 1829. Bailey Welch was the builder. Regular services were held until 1869 when the church was closed. In 1853 the pulpit was cut down, and changes made in the platform around it.

In 1879 a committee investigated it, thinking to establish a Unitarian School, but decided against it. In 1885 Catholic services were held in this church, and they wished to buy the building. Since that time it has been kept in good condition. The interior is as it was built with box pews, even the "nigger pen" is still in the north-east part of the gallery.

The old North Church, one of the landmarks of the town! Its doors are opened every Summer to receive all those who wish to worship within its portals. This old church is an object of veneration and respect.

**ADVENT**

Around the 1870s there was a thriving Advent Church here in the village. They had their own chapel on the corner of Mechanic Street and the Turnpike; directly south of the Veteran's Memorial. Elder Daniel Eastman was the minister. He was a greatly liked and much esteemed citizen. The chapel was closed for a number of years before it was sold to be used as a store. This burned in 1923.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**

After the year 1850 numerous families of the Catholic faith were in town. Some of the family names were—Dwyre, Sloan, Sullivan, Lorden, O'Leary, Barry, Hill, Favreau, Benoit, Giguere, Descoteaux and Remillard. Mass was celebrated in the homes, usually that of Robert Dwyre, Lewis Giguere or William Barry. Around 1885 they began to plan for a church. In 1889 a lot of land on Church
Street was purchased from Mrs. Lura Milton. In 1890 the church was built, and a house nearby bought as a residence for the priest. This church was a fine, dignified edifice generously and cheerfully supported by its parishioners. This building too gave way to the flames in 1923.

For some years after the fire Mass was celebrated in public halls; and then on August 6, 1950 a beautiful chapel was dedicated; built on the spot where the first church building had stood. It is free from debt; a credit to its members of this parish, and to the town.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

More than fifty years ago religious services were started at El Nathan Home on Razor Hill in Grafton. In 1916 the Union Mission was organized at Canaan Center, and a chapel built there three years later. The group from El Nathan joined with the group at the Center at that time, as the “Mehida Pentecostal Assembly.” This church affiliated with the Assemblies of God in June 1920. In 1955 the name, "Mehida Assembly of God Church" was adopted. At present the Rev. Ernest A. Steffensen is the pastor. This church is in a flourishing condition, and ministers to the spiritual needs of many of our people.

STREET METHODIST CHURCH

The Canaan Street Methodist Church was built during 1843, and dedicated October 2, 1844. For many years it has been the place for worship in that part of the town. In 1944 it celebrated its centennial with appropriate ceremonies.

During the last few years it received a gift of a church bell from the late Arthur A. Williams, from others memorial gifts for the altar. The building has been repaired inside and out. A vestry and dining room, with necessary furnishings, has been added.

This church appears to be in a most prosperous condition.
The Great Canaan Fire

Saturday, June 2, 1923. CANAAN FIRE.

For days we had had no rain. Everything was tinder-dry. A strong wind was blowing from the northwest. About eleven o'clock in the morning the Stevens' home on School Street was ablaze. Canaan had a volunteer fire department, with two hand-pulled fire carts. They were called to the scene, but had difficulty in connecting the hose, and soon realized how insufficiently equipped they were to combat the roaring blaze which was consuming the Stevens home. The strong wind picked up blazing embers and blew them directly toward the center of the village. It is a question whether the C. O. Barney home (Mr. and Mrs. Eric Carlson now live there), or the Baptist Church was the second building to ignite. Both were burning at the same time. The firemen were helpless as they watched the fire soar over their heads. Within minutes the whole business section and homes were ablaze. Part of Main Street, part of Church Street, and all of Depot Street and Mechanic Street were burning.

Help was called from neighboring towns. Fire fighting equipment from Lebanon, White River Junction, and Concord raced to Canaan, but it was too late to stop the fire in its path of destruction. No one can imagine the terrific heat which was generated by such an inferno. Blasts of hot air ignited grass along
A landmark in Canaan village was the Cardigan House, a hostelry of the old days complete with ample stables. The structure stood on Depot Street on the site now occupied by the Canaan Cash Market.

the railroad track for almost two miles, and completely warped many of the rails. Lumber yards outside the immediate village caught fire and added to the threat of fire on the homes in the outskirts.

By two o’clock in the afternoon this section of the village was only smoking ruins. The major business area of the village, also residences, had been consumed, and the inhabitants dazed at the extent of their loss. The Concord fire department stayed on the south part of the village, and the White River group on the west to quench any scattering fire that might start.

Nearly fifty business places and homes had been destroyed, as well as dozens of barns and buildings for storage. Let me name a few: The Mascoma Manufacturing Company, that employed forty to fifty hands; the Post Office, every store; Reporter Office, Crystal Lake Water Co. building; Town Offices and Court Room; Mascoma Lodge; Hotel Barnard; Baptist and Catholic Churches; Sargent Block; Milton Hall, the home of all fraternal orders; Harness Shop; Mica Shops; Jones Garage; The Cardigan House; the old Canaan Inn; the Railroad Station and Freight House; the Shackford Block; also many homes. These, with their contents, were completely burned.

That evening the only church remaining in the village threw open its doors and there Rev. G. J. Southerland held a service for people of all faiths. In clothes about which the odor of smoke still lingered, and with smells of still burning embers sifted in through the open church windows, the people gathered to give thanks for the blessings that remained, and to place their troubles in the hands of God.

On Sunday, June 3rd, thousands of visitors, in more than a thousand automobiles, came to view the ruins. Sheriff Claude M. Murray had to swear in fifteen special deputies to handle the crowd.

The loss has been estimated from $500,000 to a million dollars; and the insurance claims that were paid to the policy holders was about $150,000.

Two of our leading citizens died from burns: Horatio A. Gilman and his son, Sidney B. Gilman. Napoleon Hill’s hands were so severely burned that they were crippled as long as he lived. Others of our towns people were
When George H. Gordon was Station Master, the Boston & Maine station was also a home. Here lived the Gordon family whose members gave warm welcome to travellers. In this picture, from the left, are Don Woodward, the yardmaster; John Goddard, telegraph operator; George H. Gordon and Mrs. Gordon; Ruth Gordon (Mrs. Willard Hicks); a nephew, Lawrence Gordon; Ethelyn Gordon (Mrs. Edgar Woodard), and Lula Gordon Gilman.

financially ruined as a result of the fire.
Aid by cash and goods began at once to pour into Canaan from neighboring towns and the Red Cross. Many made substantial gifts:—Enfield, $1287; Lebanon, $1500; Dartmouth, $950; Laconia, $500; Concord, $1500 and many more.

At once plans were made to rebuild. A notice was posted — "Canaan Will Rise from Ruins. A Mass Meeting of Citizens called for Tuesday to Plan for the Future." So quickly Canaan began to stir. Soon the Overall Shop began operations in the Canaan Inn, but was not a financial success. The Canaan Rehabilitation Corporation was organized. The owners of the burned area pooled their land for stock in the corporation. The Shackford meadows, south of Mechanic Street, were purchased by the Corporation which made possible the widening and straightening of streets, and provision for parks; thereby greatly improving street and traffic conditions; also the elimination of dangerous corners and curves.

To survey the new street, and the new lots for the owners, also to advise in the planning for new building, cash was needed. The biggest contributors for this work were: Charles H. Tenney, William G. Wheat, Claude M. Murray, Oscar L. Rand, Mrs. Carey Smith, and James B. Wallace. The new road, the park, and accurate survey of the burned area resulted.

In June 1927, the corporation closed its books after spending nearly $12,000, and the last thing it did was to sell its remaining land to Arthur A. Williams for the Williams Field and Playground.

The Canaan Improvement Society supervised the planting of trees and shrubs; also in planning and beautifying the park.

A Board of Trade, consisting of fifty-two members, was formed. It hoped to bring new business and industries to town.

One year after the fire twenty-two buildings, out of forty-eight had been replaced. Others were under construction. Since that time more have been built.
There were occasional floods over the years and Depot Street is shown under water in the early years of the century. The picture was taken from the railroad station. The Cardigan House survived many such floods, but succumbed to the fire of 1923.

Hurricane and Flood

Canaan Village has looked for high water every Spring and sometimes in the Fall, when some of our streets would be flooded; but on September 20-21, 1938, New England was laid flat by the worst blow and rains in its history. Canaan was in the path of the hurricane and received the whole force of the storm. Whole timber lots were felled; trees uprooted and streets made impassable; roads washed completely out in many places. Many roofs lost all shingles, and some roofs went too. The steeple of the Methodist Church in the village was blown off and came to rest, point downward, through the roof. The waters of the flood covered Depot and Mechanic Streets, almost meeting in the Square. Boats were in use on these streets.

The old Grist Mill that stood at the west end of the village was completely razed by the winds. All of its timbers, even to the last bit, were borne away by the flood. Much damage was done to the railroad, and for a couple of days no mail arrived. Many thousands of dollars in property damage was caused in Canaan. A government lumber salvage project was formed, but it was little financial help to the owners of the lumber.

In January 1939 the old grist mill dam was blown out. The mill pond vanished, and the level of Indian River lowered several feet. The increased drainage was to be a benefit to this village, and to eliminate some danger from floods; also to decrease the washouts on the highways.
The Soldiers

The men of Canaan have always been loyal citizens. Seventy-seven men of Canaan served in the Revolutionary War. Only a few of these enlisted from this town; the others coming here around 1780, or a little later, as settlers. Among those last were the six Richardson brothers, all soldiers. Forty-three of these patriots lie in our cemeteries. In 1775, only nine years after the first settler arrived, Canaan sent a big percentage of its men to fight for liberty from Britain. Its record is to be commended.

After the Revolution regiments of militia were formed in New Hampshire. The 37th Regiment held its musters in Canaan, and Canaan men were its officers. It was organized in 1809. Canaan men making up the 4th Company of the Regiment. That Company consisted of forty-three men. Muster Days were celebrated by rum and frolic.

In the War of 1812 five men volunteered and nine men were drafted.

The Mexican War had four men from Canaan in the ranks.

The War Between the States saw the men of this town once more ready to defend the Union. Sixteen men volunteered at once in 1861. After the war, in 1865, the Adjutant General's report gave Canaan credit for one hundred and thirty-nine men who served during the conflict.

Canaan was again represented in the Spanish-American War; but by a very small number.

1917! World War I! How well we old-timers remember! War was declared April 4th, and President Wilson sounded the call "To Arms." Everywhere patriotic rallies were held. In Canaan on May 17th enlisted men with a squad of buglers, state notables with our own Hon. Frank D. Currier, addressed the gathering here. Young men flocked to the Colors, and soon it was "Good-bye Broadway, Hello France" and they were "Over There." Our men who first enlisted saw active service in the front lines from the first week in February 1918 until after the Armistice. The guns were stilled on November 11, 1918, and the "War to end all wars" was finished.

Canaan furnished fifty-four men in World War I, and we lost Corporal Verne H. Weld, killed in action at the Battle of St. Mihiel. Forrest E. Smith and Bernard E. Eastman died in service. Corporal Jack Welch and Israel Ford died soon after coming home, due to wounds received in action.

World War II began in September, 1939. On December 7th, 1941 — two years later — came the attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States was at war again. On September 2nd, 1945 active warfare ceased, but the peace treaty was not signed until much later; after conferences which proved to be much against the welfare of these United
States. During the war our troops were scattered to all parts of the globe; and for the first time women were enlisted for war. One hundred and fifty-one men and women from this town saw service during this time. Sergeant Frank H. Butman; Alton H. Webster; Stanley G. Stark; Lt.-Col. Hervey D. Columbia; Chapin B. Miller and later his brother Capt. Preston T. Miller, Jr. gave their lives for their country.

The division of Korea into two parts, north and south, was the result of a conference attended by President F. D. Roosevelt. The Soviet Union was given control of the northern half. Following their usual conduct the Communists invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, and hostilities ended July 27, 1953. This was one of the bloodiest wars in all history. The United Nations, with the United States furnishing the greatest part of troops and wealth, occupied South Korea. This conflict was termed a "Police Action" by the United Nations, with President Truman at the helm attempting to guide the Ship of State. The Soviets are still there today! Many of Canaan's young men and women were called to serve in this war also. William H. Reagan, Jr. gave his life on July 2, 1953 for the Stars and Stripes.

Will all veterans of all wars, and all ladies of a veteran's family, please rise.

"Oh spacious days of glory, and of grieving, Oh sounding hours of lustre, and of loss! Let us be glad we lived you, still believing The God that gave the cannon, gave the Cross."
—Robert W. Service.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

On October 27, 1813, eight men met in Seth Bullock's Tavern in Grafton to form a Lodge of Freemasons. The petition when presented for a charter had fifteen signatures. The first assembly was February 2, 1814 in Dole's Tavern on the Street. It was named Mt. Moriah Lodge, No. 22. In 1823 it had about sixty members, consisting of the more influential men of this and near-by towns. It flourished until 1840, when due to private animosities the charter was forfeited. Through the efforts of Jacob Trussell, a prominent Mason, the Lodge was reinstated, but at Grafton Center. No meetings were held after 1870.

On January 15, 1902, Summit Lodge, No. 98, F. & A.M. held its first meeting in Canaan with twenty-two charter members. This Lodge has continued to increase, and after the Canaan Fire in 1923 it purchased the home of the late Congressman Frank D. Currier, which was remodeled to fit the needs of the Lodge.

In 1921 Summit Chapter, No. 56, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized. It holds its meetings in the Masonic Lodge Room, and is in a flourishing condition.

Mascoma Grange, No. 68 dates from October 26, 1875. It meets at West Canaan, and is an active group.

Indian River Grange, No. 72 first met December 10, 1875. It has had its times of worry and also of prosperity. It owns its own fine hall in Canaan Village where it holds its regular meetings.

On August, 11, 1893, Mt. Cardigan Lodge, No. 31, Knights of Pythias, was duly instituted with twenty-eight charter members. It prospered from the beginning. After the Canaan Fire it built a fine two-story building—an auditorium on the first floor. Due to personal bickering among the brothers the charter was given up, and the building sold. That building is now the Community Center. In 1934 the Lodge was reorganized at Canaan Center and has held its meetings there since.

The Pythian Sisters held their first meeting March 13, 1900 with twenty-seven charter members. It was popular and successful from the start. It followed the Knights to Canaan Center where it holds its meetings at present.

Verne H. Weld Post, No. 55, American Legion was organized in the Fall of 1919. Major Persons W. Wing was the first elected Commander. In 1924 it built its present brick home. After World War II, the name was changed to Weld - Webster Post.

The Legion ladies formed the Post Auxiliary in 1925. Mrs. Nora G. Weld, a gold-star mother, was the first president. It holds its regular meetings in the Legion Building, and is an active organization.

The Bird and Garden Club, a popular group, dates from 1939. The Parents-Teachers Association was organized in 1945, and since that time has given much aid to our schools. In 1948 the Fish and Game Club was established. It has shown great community spirit, and its annual Fourth of July celebrations have been Red-Letter Days in Canaan. We have a hustling Lions Club, chartered April 24, 1953. It is an asset to the town. A Woman's Club was founded in 1956. Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and both senior and junior church groups have their regular schedules.
Noyes Academy: A Drama

EDUCATION

In 1834 Samuel Noyes, George Kimball, Nathaniel Currier, George Walworth and John H. Harris bought half an acre of land just south of the Congregational Church on Broad Street, and obtained a charter from the Legislature, July 4th, for the purpose of establishing a school "for the education of youth." These men were active abolitionists. The school was to be called Noyes Academy, and was to be opened to all and any students. Both white and black pupils were invited to come and partake of its benefits on equal terms. Public opinion of that day was not tolerant. Negroes were not recognized as a part of the social system. Almost all of our citizens, and also those of nearby towns, were much opposed to having blacks come here. The Academy had not long been in operation before the people met in town meeting and voted that "niggers" would not be tolerated here and "to abate the nuisance." In January 1835 it is recorded that thirteen colored pupils were attending the school. Rumors abounded that negroes were coming here and overrun the town, lining the streets with their huts. Signs were posted on the roads leading to Canaan, stating it to be—So many "miles to Nigger Town." On July 4, 1835 about seventy men drew up in front of the building and Jacob Trussell, the leader, announced that the object of their "virtuous wrath" was before them. It was decided that August 10 should be the day to "abate the public nuisance," and a committee of fifteen men were appointed to see that plans were made and carried out. The day arrived. All the blacks had fled in fear of their lives, and the abolitionists were behind bolted doors shaking in their shoes.

Five hundred men, embracing most of the substantial and respected citizens of Enfield, Dorchester and Canaan, with their oxen approached the building. Broad Street was filled with men and cattle in all directions. Leader Trussell is at the head. As they reach the building he addresses them: "Gentlemen, your work is before you. This town has declared this school to be a nuisance, and that is must be abated. If any man obstructs you in those labors, let him be abated also! Now, fall to and remove this fence." By noon they had the skids beneath the building, and by evening had drawn it into the road. The cattle were then turned loose in the fields for the night, and the men departed to meet early the next morning. Tuesday, the 11th dawned. The rays from the sun making it one of the hottest days of the year. The oxen were hitched to the skids and the building headed towards Currier's store;—but the men were uneasy and thirsty. They had drunk up all the rum in the taverns the day before. Leader Trussell noticed this restlessness, and leaping upon an empty ox-cart harangued the crowd. "Fellow citizens: Today we are here to do away with the nuisance placed in our town by the abolitionists. Nat Currier is one of them, and he sells drink. Loyal townsmen: It is no more than just that he, this day, furnish us with rum. Patriots: Let us roll out the barrels!"

And so they did.

Now, thoroughly fortified, the men set to work with a will. Ninety-five yoke of oxen were hitched to the skids. Brother Trussell gives the signal,—the chains straighten—and the Academy building moves down Broad Street. At dusk they had reached the front of the meeting house, the Academy nearly blocking the road. There it was left until it was decided where it should be placed.

On September 10th the men met again and moved the building east towards Hart Pond, and there it remained until it burned, under mysterious circumstances, on March 7, 1839.

After the building had been placed the men dragged out the old cannon brought home for the militia, discharging it in front of the home of every abolitionist, breaking nearly every pane of glass on that side of the house. Their work was finished.

The moving of Noyes Academy, and the cause of its destruction, aroused much comment throughout all the Eastern States. In Canaan it was the prime topic of conversation for more than a generation. I wonder just what might be the attitude of Canaanites of today were they living in Little Rock or New Orleans.

These sturdy men who removed the Noyes
Academy were sincere in what they believed to be for the very best interest of Canaan. Their methods may have been unorthodox, but they certainly got results. If they earned reproach—it is all theirs; but should they merit praise—that shall be theirs also. So must it be.

A few weeks after the burning of Noyes Academy a number of men assembled to erect a new academy on the site where the other burned. The names on the charter of this new school do not seem to be those of abolitionists. The school opened September 1, 1839 as Union Academy with one hundred and twenty pupils—all white. In 1854 it had two hundred and six students. It continued with more or less success until 1892. Since 1904 this building has housed the town library.

Cardigan Mountain School was incorporated in 1946 and graduated its first class the following year. Its campus, situated on a point of land at the northern end of Canaan Street Lake is unexcelled for beauty, and the vista from it is one of the finest in the East. The school has had a phenomenal growth in buildings, attendance and prestige. More than one hundred and twenty boys are now enrolled. This school is a great asset to Canaan. It brings hundreds of fine people here. It brings hundreds of fine people here who otherwise might not become acquainted with us. It is also a financial aid to the town and to the many people employed at the school. Its president is Harold P. Hinman.

May I quote from the Canaan Reporter?

"Through the vision, the resourcefulness and the courage of one man, Canaan is privileged to be called the home of Cardigan Mountain School. That man, of course, is Harold P. Hinman; distinguished alumnus of Dartmouth, leader in the granite industry for many years, educator, dreamer. To hundreds of his friends in all walks of life, from the most humble among us to presidents of colleges alike, he is, simply, 'Hap' Hinman."

May the school that he founded continue to grow and prosper, bringing honor to itself, and also to its home town.

To the untiring efforts and dedicated devotion to an ideal, Canaan’s College of Advanced Science was incorporated in 1956 by its founder and president, Austin H. Welch. Situated on Broad Street, its campus extending to the lake, it has a most attractive setting. The enrollment now fills the accommodations available, and its continued growth and success seem to be assured.

All through the many years gone by Canaan has been most fortunate in obtaining excellent teachers for its District Schools. At one time there were twenty-one districts; the school in every one was highly rated. Many who in later years distinguished themselves were products of our district schools. These fine, praiseworthy schools are now a thing of the past. In 1951 a new elementary school building was erected in Canaan Village.

**RAILROAD**

After more than two years of work blasting a way through the ledges at the Rams Head and at the Summit, rails were laid for the railroad. The first engine and cars passed through Canaan in the Fall of 1847. The Hon. Daniel Webster was a passenger on this train.

The railroad officials planned to place the station at what is now the Webster Farm at Pillsbury Switch, thinking it to be the place most convenient for the greater part of the people at that time. Most of them were living on South Road, Chebacco Road and East Hill on the south, and for those on Town Hill, Sawyer Hill and Broad Street on the north.

The people of Broad Street held mass meetings to protest the placing of the station where the railroad wished, stating that “the snorting and belching of the great iron horse would disturb the tranquillity of their neighborhood.

A great part of what is now Canaan Village was then the farm of Richard Hutchinson. His home was where the Canaan Inn is now located. He, learning of the unrest on Broad Street concerning the station, offered the Railroad a gift of land for a depot. His offer was accepted and the station was built on the spot it now occupies, at the south end of Depot Street.

With the railroad station placed here, buildings rapidly sprang up. The street from the station to the turnpike was laid out in 1848. The street from the Veteran's Memorial to the Square in 1853; this one was originally named "Willow Street," now it is "Mechanic." In a few years this village became the trading center of the town. By 1860 the village had merchants, two hotels, a church being built, a wheelwright, a wood-working shop, shoe and harness shop, a tin shop, blacksmith and brickyard. A school house stood on the spot that is now the home of William Burns. Mr. Hutchinson gave the land for a new schoolhouse, and that is where the present High School building now stands.

The railroad, after cancelling many trains, closed the station in 1958, after 111 years of service.
Originally the Weeks homestead, this large home on Canaan Street was converted in 1890 into an inn for William Hinckley and called the Hotel Lucerne. Later it bore the name Canaan Street Lodge. Now it is the home of the College of Advanced Science.

Summer days have been made happier for hundreds of Canaan's young people over the past twenty years through the generosity of one of Canaan's most loyal friends, the late Arthur A. Williams.

More than thirty years ago, Mr. Williams conceived the idea of a recreation ground for Canaan boys and in 1929 he began the work of converting the town-owned area south of the village into a baseball field. The project was interrupted because of a bereavement that for a long time darkened the sponsor's life, but eventually he regained his enthusiasm for the plan. In 1940 the baseball diamond known as Williams Field was completed. Here the Canaan high school teams have a convenient, nicely-groomed playing surface that is a far cry from the remote fields and pastures that served the youth of a generation ago.

During the later stages of the work, it occurred to Mr. Williams that the smaller children should also have recreation privileges, and so the playground was set up, with its merry-go-round, jungle gym, slide and swings. The first supervisor was Mrs. Annette Burns, whose interest and devotion were rewarded by three highly successful seasons, the forerunners of many to be enjoyed.

Altogether, Mr. Williams expended more than $5000 on the project, which is only one of his many benefactions to the town. Another gift of major importance was the handsome grandstand at the fairgrounds which was presented to the Canaan Fair Association in 1948 as a memorial to Alton Webster, young paratrooper who lost his life on the shores of Normandy on D-day in 1944.

There are many items of interest about Canaan folks, and I wish to speak briefly of a few.

Simeon Welch made what he called a “Running Machine” in the early 1800s. It was similar to the bicycle of today, without pedals, and the seat centered between the two wheels. He propelled it along by striking his feet against the ground.

Canaan is the birthplace of the pipe wrench. About 1850 a man by the name of Stillson invented it here. It was first manufactured at the old hammer shop at the Center. Later one of the Walworths of South Road obtained the manufacturing rights of the Stillson Wrench; and it was part of the beginning of the Walworth Manufacturing Co. of Boston.

Gold was first discovered in New Hampshire in 1844. Traces of it were found in Can-
aan and Enfield. Ten years later, free gold was panned out of gravels in Plainfield, Lebanon and Hanover.

In Canaan the gold was found in the Sawyer Hill area, and the Gold Rush was on. Prospectors scurried over our hills inspecting every outcropping of quartz. None was found elsewhere in town, and in two or three years the rush was all over, because so little gold was obtained that a miner could not make a day's pay.

A number of years later copper mining was started in this same vicinity, but that too did not last long.

In 1867 Charles Oscar Barney established a weekly newspaper—The Canaan Reporter. For the next sixty years he was its editor. At his death his son, Judge Edward A. Barney, became the owner and manager of the increasing printing business of the Reporter Press. Judge Barney sold the business in 1946. Today it is still being successfully carried on by Elmer and Mary Dulmage.

One of the first farms cleared was that of Shephen Worth on the west side of Mt. Tug—known to us as Jerusalem. Here around 1875 a spring of water, flowing from the ledges, was discovered. This water, flowing in great abundance, has an analysis as good or better than that of Poland Spring in Maine; it has also some medicinal properties. When bottled it remains pure and fresh indefinitely. In 1878 a large three-story hotel was built there, with thirty private rooms, in hopes that it would become a successful spa. Possibly due to mismanagement it was not a success. After remaining closed many years, the big buildings were razed in 1929. Had the business had proper publicity Jerusalem Spring might have been as famous as Poland.

That spring is still flowing; its pure, healthful, healing waters running to waste.

Edwin Flint died in 1915. He was stone deaf, but a mechanical genius. His shop is now the Highway Garage. In that shop were many tools of his own invention, powered by
A popular inn on Canaan Street in the late 1800s and the early part of this century was the Grand View House. It was well appointed throughout; the dining room seated one hundred.

his steam engine. After the Civil War he patterned and manufactured a gun. Mrs. Flint, Sara, got about only by the aid of crutches. Edwin made her a sewing machine, also a washing machine, powered by steam. He invented a pump to throw water in case of fire. Many years of work, and disappointment, went by before his Horseless Carriage took shape. Every single bit of it, even to the spokes of the wheels, he made himself. It had a steam boiler on the rear of the machine. In 1897 he fired up the boiler and ran his automobile from his shop to the turnpike. For some reason that he could not discover he could not keep the steam pressure for a longer run. That machine is now in Tunbridge, Vermont.

The first Mascot Valley Fair was held in 1872. Until 1900 it was the great annual event in Canaan. It was welcomed by young and old; a time of reunions and celebration. It was dormant until 1937; then it revived, and with a few omissions has been held yearly since.

The Great Yellow Day in New England was September 6, 1881. Artificial light was necessary around the homes, no schools that day, and fowls stayed on their roosts. Our people lived through this day in awe, foreboding and fear.

The first concrete sidewalks in the village were installed in 1889. The money to pay for them was raised by public entertainments, and private contributions.

The Crystal Lake Water Company was incorporated August 1889. In 1890 pipes were laid; a fire precinct established; and the Precinct Hall was built that year. On January 1, 1891 the water was turned on. This company furnishes water to Canaan Village. This village is to be congratulated upon having one of the very finest water supplies in the State.

In 1854 the first school report was printed. In 1855 it was voted that a report of town business be printed. That has been done with the exception of one year in the late 1850's.

Shirley O. Rand was the telephone pioneer in Canaan. He installed a few wall telephones, and soon joined the Bell Telephone Company. Poles and wires were set up and in November 1897 Canaan folks could speak over the phone to friends in Grafton.
sion was rapid, and in a very short time Canaan's telephone service was as good as that anywhere.

**ELECTRIC LIGHTS**

In 1909 the Canaan Light, Heat and Power Company was organized. Power for the dynamo was to be furnished by water from the grist-mill dam, and the grist-mill was to house the plant. The water from Lary Pond was to be a reserve supply. Enthusiasm ran high. Twenty-five street lights were installed in the village, each lamp boasting of twenty candle-power or twenty-five watts. Due to failure of water power the company soon disbanded. After this, Edwin M. Allen, one of our most public spirited citizens, had electric lights in his extra fine drug store, power furnished by a gasoline engine. The Reporter Press also installed electric lights, power from a water motor. On January 1, 1918, electricity came to Canaan to stay, but from an out of town source.

The mica shops in Canaan gave work to many people, especially during war times. The mica came from mines in Orange and Grafton. The Ruggles Mine in Grafton has been worked since 1803. I believe this mine that is still being worked, to be the oldest mine in the United States that is still producing. The rough mica was brought here to be prepared for commercial use. This business was a very great help to Canaan's welfare.

On February 28, 1925 Canaan took a good shaking by an earthquake. Those of us who were attending a motion picture show in what is now the Community Center will not forget it. The building shook for ten minutes.

Many men of Canaan have become noted beyond our borders, especially in the profession of law. Two served as Congressmen—Hon. Daniel Blaisdell and Hon. Frank D. Currier. Judge Caleb Blodgett presided over the murder trial of Lizzie Borden in Fall River, Massachusetts. Hon. Clement Story was the counsel for Frank C. Almy who was tried, and proven guilty, of the murder of Christie Warden in Hanover. These were two of the most sensational murder cases in New England during the early 1890's. Hon. George W. Murray, who died in 1900, was a most successful attorney who usually won the cases for his clients.

By the census of 1960 Canaan has 1530 inhabitants. The highest number since 1880.

**ORANGE**

The towns of Canaan and Orange, and their inhabitants, have always been closely asso-
Canaan Village, looking east, before the Great Fire of 1923.

A view of the east end of the village taken from Highland Avenue, showing the old bridge and, at the left, the Canaan Inn. The house in the foreground was the C. O. Barney home. It was destroyed in the 1923 fire. The Carlson home stands on this site now.
After the wreck. The girls standing at the left have been identified as Katherine Gordon, Doris Mooney and Mary Dincerman.

Death Rides the Rails

By Edward A. Barney

During its century and a quarter of passenger transportation, the Boston and Maine railroad has maintained a remarkable record of speeding its travelers safely to their destination. But on the blackest day in the road's history it became Canaan's unhappy lot to provide the locale for the greatest tragedy the system ever experienced. The calamity, in no way the fault of Canaan or any Canaanite, resulted in twenty-eight deaths and the maiming and injuring of as many more victims when a speeding Quebec express collided head-on with a freight train in the early hours of September 15, 1907.

The cause was attributed to an oversight in train dispatching. In those long-gone days, two Canadian trains, Boston-bound, were scheduled to pass through Canaan twenty minutes apart. The first that murky Sunday morning was the doomed Quebec express, designated as No. 32; the second, No. 30, originated in Montreal. It has been stated that the Northbound freight was under orders to meet No. 30 at East Lebanon station with the Quebec flyer, running in between, tragically overlooked. Some railroad men still believe that the place of meeting was meant to be back at West Canaan but that the passenger engineer's orders read "Canaan." At any rate, thenceforward, West Canaan Station was to be known as "Pattee" to avert any possible misunderstanding in future.

A dense fog contributed to the cause and extent of the horror. John Callahan, engineer of No. 32, who had entered the two-mile stretch of track approaching the Webster meadows could not see the headlight of the oncoming freight until there was barely time to clap on the emergency brakes and with his fireman jump for his life. The baggage cars, a smoker and a day coach were ground to shreds by the earth-shaking impact.

Yet, as in most great catastrophes, there were miraculous escapes. Conductor F. H. Brown, standing at one side of the day coach, was brushed by the entire length of the smoker as it telescoped into his car. Although sustaining not a scratch, he died suddenly within a year. Almost unbelievably, the Pullman sleepers in the rear were so little affected that some of their slumbering passengers were not aroused.

Two Canaan passengers, Frank Webster, whose farmlands bordered the scene of the wreck, and George Pasqual, were apparently unscathed and both walked to their nearby homes. But Pasqual was to die suddenly before a year had passed and Mr. Webster never recovered from the effects of the shock.
For Engineman John Callahan there was a grim replay of the crash, that time with fatal consequences to himself. Two years later, almost to the day, and at a spot barely a mile West of the scene of his bitter experience, the same express trains were in collision in the West Canaan yard. The first had made an unscheduled stop. Again, fog so restricted visibility that Callahan, piloting train No. 2, had no chance for his life. He died at his post when his engine plowed into the rear Quebec Pullman. Frank Parmenter, his fireman, perished with him.

And lastly, a mention of a fatal smashup that occurred many years before those of the ill-starred trains. It was during the noon hour of July 2, 1872, that the North-bound accommodation pulled out of the Canaan depot at about the same moment that the train for Concord left West Canaan. The mixup was discovered a fraction of a minute too late to recall the departing local. Station Agent Marshall Shackford foretold that the trains would crash at Pillsbury Switch. They did. A thunderous roar a mile to the West made good his words. Engineer Charlie Clark died at the throttle, heading a long list of casualties.